

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

S E C R E T STATE 219476

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PEPR, SHUM, PINT, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

1. EA COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FY 1980 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
LEVELS (CONFIDENTIAL)

BOB OAKLEY IN A MEMO TO GOVERNOR GILLIGAN HAS EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THE RECOMMENDED AID LEVELS FOR EA IN FY
1980 COULD JEOPARDIZE KEY U.S. POLICY INTERESTS IN THE
AREA. AS REGARDS THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE THE PROPOSAL WOULD
REDUCE THE PROGRAM FROM DOLS 51,584,000 TO DOLS 35 MILLION,
THE MEMO MAKES A STRONG CASE FOR PRESERVING THE EXISTING
LEVEL OF AID DURING THE DELICATE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ARMS TRANSFERS AND POLICE EQUIPMENT (SECRET)

IN DECISIONS DATED AUGUST 18 AND 25, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
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APPROVED ALL BUT ONE OF A NUMBER OF PENDING CASES INVOLVING
ARMS-TRANSFERS AND POLICE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHILIPPINES.
THE ONE CASE DISAPPROVED INVOLVED FIFTEEN .45 CALIBRE
PISTOLS FOR THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. WE ARE
NOW COORDINATING WITH PM TO ENSURE PROMPT FOLLOW-UP ACTION
ON THE APPROVED CASES, THREE OF WHICH REQUIRE PRESIDENTIAL
APPROVAL AND/OR NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE

ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

3. ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE ASYLUM APPLICATIONS OF FORMER PHILIPPINE DIPLOMAT JOSELITO C. AZURIN AND DEFEATED LABAN CANDIDATE/FORMER MARCOS CONFIDANT ERNESTO MACEDA WERE FORWARDED BY INS LAST WEEK TO STATE FOR OUR ADVISORY OPINIONS. WE ARE PREPARING OUR EVALUATIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE CLAIMS FOR ASYLUM AND WILL BE READY TO DISCUSS DOS RESPONSE WHENEVER HA IS. RIGHT NOW, AZURIN'S REQUEST STILL APPEARS AS DUBIOUS AS IT DID INITIALLY (THE FIRST ACT AGAINST THE GOP WHICH HE CAN CITE IN HIS ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASES IN AUSTRALIA, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE U.S.). OVERALL, MACEDA'S CLAIM SEEMS SUSPECT, TOO, BUT CHARGES AGAINST HIM STEMMING FROM ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES IN MANILA (CHARACTERIZED BY GOP AS "CRIMINAL" RATHER THAN "PUBLIC ORDER" OFFENSES) MAY TIP THE BALANCE. RAUL MANGLAPUS CONTINUES TO PRESS US DAILY FOR FAVORABLE DECISIONS IN BOTH CASES.

4. MUSLIM FILIPINOS NO-SHOWS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES INC., (DAI) PASSED US THE MESSAGE FRIDAY THAT RASHID LUCMAN, SALIPADA PENDATUN, AND MRS. LUCMAN OF THE BANGSA MORO LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (BMLO) HAD ARRIVED IN THE U.S. AND WERE STAYING AT THE PRESIDENT SECRET

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HOTEL. CALLS THERE FOUND THEM REGISTERED BUT NOT CAMPED BY THE PHONE. A FOLLOW-UP CALL EARLY MONDAY MORNING TURNED UP INFORMATION THAT THEY HAD CHECKED OUT OVER THE WEEKEND LEAVING NO FORWARDING ADDRESS. AS OF THIS AFTER-NOON, NEITHER CHARLES MORRISON OF SENATOR ROTH'S OFFICE NOR DAI HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR NEW PLANS. WE ASSUME THEY STILL WISH TO CALL HERE AND ON THE HILL, BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S UP TO THEM.

5. PRESENTATION OF MACARTHUR MEDALS (CONFIDENTIAL)

LAST NOVEMBER DOREMUS, GOP'S PR FIRM, OFFERED A CASE FULL OF DUPLICATE MACARTHUR MEDALS TO THE MANILA HOTEL FOR DISPLAY IN MACARTHUR SUITE. DURING ASEAN MEETING DOREMUS ASKED MRS. MARCOS TO ACCEPT DONATION IN U.S. BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY. WHEN CONTACTED ROMULO WAS INTERESTED BUT BACKED OFF WHEN HE FOUND MRS. MARCOS HAD NOT REPLIED. NOW ROMULO WISHES TO RECEIVE MEDALS AT WALDORF WHEN HE HERE FOR UNGA AND HAS SAID MRS. MACARTHUR WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. ROMULO WILL COME EARLY TO UNGA AND IT IS POSSIBLE CEREMONY MIGHT BE HELD PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S DEPARTURE SO HE COULD PARTICIPATE -- ASSUMING WE DECIDE THIS WOULD

PLACE HIM IN MIDDLE OF A ROMULO-IMELDA FEUD. CHRISTOPHER

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